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April 1, 2021

The Honorable Troy Miller  
Senior Official Performing the Duties of Commissioner  
US Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20229

The Honourable Bill Blair  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Miller and Minister Blair:

I write to encourage both U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to resume new applications for NEXUS passes so that travel and commerce between our two nations may resume once travel restrictions are ended. I also encourage CBP and CBSA to collaborate and implement a virtual interview process for future NEXUS applications.

As you know, new applicants to the NEXUS program are required to participate in two in-person interviews between a CBP official and CBSA official at a NEXUS enrollment center. These interviews are important for establishing the veracity of the applicant's identity, as well as for ensuring the safety and security of the program as a whole. However, due to travel restrictions and public health measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, new applicants have been unable to secure the in-person interviews necessary to obtain a NEXUS pass since last March.

Western New York and Southern Ontario share interdependent economies with close community ties and benefit greatly from the free movement of people and goods between our two countries. Each year, the State of New York imports nearly \$17 billion in goods from Canada. My district, which is home to four of the busiest border crossings in North America, provides more than \$1.32 billion in goods and services to the Canadian economy annually.

It is vital to the economic wellbeing of our citizens and their communities that both the United States and Canada begin planning for the resumption of normal commerce and travel between our two countries. The pandemic has forced both private industry and government alike to rethink old approaches to the workplace and

adopt new technologies. Both CBP and CBSA should follow suit and consider the joint implementation of virtual interviews for new NEXUS applications.

Such a proposal would provide a straightforward solution to current disruptions at enrollment centers while allowing both agencies to adhere to rigorous safety and security standards. If successful, virtual interviews would allow both agencies to process more applicants, save time and travel costs, and assist in the resumption of trade and economic growth between our two countries.

I appreciate your consideration of this proposal and look forward to your thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Higgins" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress